

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 to 9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method for automated negotiation, including steps of
for
identifying one or more parties;
setting the parameters of said automated negotiation;
sending an invitation to said automated negotiation to said one or more parties;
making an offer in response to said invitation;
responding to said offer; and
storing information in a database;
wherein at least one of said steps is performed automatically by a computer
program.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 10, wherein said step of
identifying one or more parties ~~prospective partners~~ is performed automatically by a computer
program that searches a database.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 10, wherein said step of identifying one or more parties ~~prospective partners~~ is performed by the initiator of said automated negotiation.

13. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 10 wherein said step of identifying one or more parties ~~prospective partners~~ includes setting various parameters for access control and preferences so as to create private negotiations and private directories.

14. (Original) A method as in claim 10, wherein said step of setting the parameters is performed by an initiator of said automated negotiation through a series of interactions with a computer program.

15. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 14, wherein said series of interactions includes

defining the type of said automated negotiation;

specifying terms for said negotiation that can be varied; and

specifying a range over which said terms can be varied.

16. (Original) A method as in claim 10, wherein said invitation includes information included in said parameters.

17. (Original) A method as in claim 10, wherein said invitation is sent to said one or more parties using a computerized communication system.

18. (Original) A method as in claim 17, wherein said computerized communication system includes a wireless transmitter and receiver.

19. (Original) A method as in claim 10, wherein said step of making an offer is performed by a party other than the sender of said invitation.

20. (Original) A method as in claim 10, wherein said step of responding to said offer includes accepting the offer, rejecting the offer or making a counter offer.

21. (Original) A method as in claim 10, wherein said step of responding is performed by the party that sent said invitation.

22. (Original) A method as in claim 10, wherein said step of storing information includes information concerning said automated negotiation.

23. (Original) A method as in claim 10, wherein said step of storing information includes information regarding the relative performance of one or more parties to said automated negotiation.

24. (Original) A method as in claim 10, wherein said step of storing information is independent of any particular outcome of said automated negotiations.

25. (Original) A method as in claim 10, wherein said information is stored on a relational database.

26. (Original) A method as in claim 10, wherein said information is stored on an object-oriented database.

27. (New) A system comprising:
a processor;
input and presentation elements that operate under control of said processor;
a communication link that operates under control of said processor; and
memory storing information including instructions, said instructions executable by said process to enable automated negotiation using said input and presentation elements and said communication link, said instruction comprising steps of:

identifying one or more parties;
setting the parameters of said automated negotiation;
sending an invitation to said automated negotiation to said one or more parties;
making an offer in response to said invitation;

responding to said offer; and
storing information in a database;
wherein at least one of said steps is performed automatically by a computer
program.

28. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein said step of identifying one or more parties is performed by searching a database.

29. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein said step of identifying one or more parties is performed by the initiator of said automated negotiation.

30. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein said step of identifying one or more parties includes setting various parameters for access control and preferences so as to create private negotiations and private directories.

31. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein said step of setting the parameters is performed by an initiator of said automated negotiation through a series of interactions with said system.

32. (New) A system as in claim 31, wherein said series of interactions includes defining the type of said automated negotiation;

specifying terms for said negotiation that can be varied; and
specifying a range over which said terms can be varied.

33. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein said invitation includes information included in said parameters.

34. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein said invitation is sent to said one or more parties using a computerized communication system.

35. (New) A system as in claim 34, wherein said computerized communication system includes a wireless transmitter and receiver.

36. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein said step of making an offer is performed by a party other than the sender of said invitation.

37. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein said step of responding to said offer includes accepting the offer, rejecting the offer or making a counter offer.

38. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein said step of responding is performed by the party that sent said invitation.

39. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein said step of storing information includes information concerning said automated negotiation.

40. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein said step of storing information includes information regarding the relative performance of one or more parties to said automated negotiation.

41. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein said step of storing information is independent of any particular outcome of said automated negotiations.

42. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein said information is stored on a relational database.

43. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein said information is stored on an object-oriented database.